

To: Members of the Judiciary Committee of the CT State Legislature

Date: March 20, 2019

Subject: SB 1085

As members of the Trumbull Board of Education, and advocates for our students, we unanimously oppose SB 1085, a bill that would legalize the retail sale and recreational use marijuana in Connecticut. Our school district has a concentrated effort in place to teach our students to make healthy choices every day. We ask that you not dismiss the harmful message that use of recreational marijuana would send to our youth just because it would be illegal for those under age 21. As a member of CABE (CT Association of Boards of Education), which also advocates against the legalization of the recreational use of marijuana, we cannot stress strongly enough the negative impact it will have on our students, their education and their development.

We ask you to consider the following marijuana-related health concerns:

- Marijuana use may affect the physical structure of the brain. The exact affect, whether it is reversible, and what the potential health implications are, remains unknown.
- Early and continuous use of marijuana significantly increases risk of not completing high school, not enrolling or completing college, low educational achievement and lower income.
- Marijuana use among high school students negatively impacts academic outcomes. The more a student uses, the worse the outcomes.
- The research on the relationship between marijuana use and academic outcomes is almost sufficient to show a cause-and effect link between the two.
- Youth in more vulnerable situations (e.g. those already experiencing behavior and mental health problems) are more likely to experience a negative academic outcome due to marijuana use.

For the sake of all Connecticut students, we ask you to please vote NO on SB 1085.

Regards,

Members of the Trumbull Board of Education:

Loretta Chory, Board Chairman
Lucinda Timpanelli, Vice-Chairman
Jacqueline Norcel, Secretary
Jeff Donofrio
Dr. Kathleen Fearon
Marie Petitti
Michael Ward

Cc: *Representative Laura Devlin*
Representative David Rutigliano
Representative Ben McGorty
Senator Marilyn Moore